



**King County**  
**Citizens' Elections Oversight Committee**

**Annual Report**  
**For the Year 2022**

February 1, 2023

## **King County Citizens' Elections Oversight Committee**

### **Committee Members**

#### **Member**

Eliseo J. Juárez, Chair  
Jayson Todd Morris, Vice Chair  
Jude Ahmed, Vice Chair  
Mathew Patrick Thomas, Vice Chair  
Hillary De La Cruz  
Hanna Floss  
Linda Grez  
Tyson Hartman  
Stuart Holmes  
Julie Kang  
Kathy Sakahara  
Mike Flood  
Dr. Jason Lambacher  
Stanley Tsao  
Christopher Hays  
VACANT

#### **Representing**

Spanish-Speaking Community Representative  
Disability Community Representative  
Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle  
King County Republican Party  
Registered Voter  
King County Democratic Party  
Jurisdictional Representative  
Technology Representative  
Washington State Office of Secretary of State  
Korean-Speaking Community Representative  
League of Women Voters  
Municipal League of King County  
University of Washington Bothell  
Chinese-Speaking Community Representative  
Registered Voter  
Vietnamese-Speaking Community

## **Introduction**

Authorized in King County Code Section 2.53, the Citizens' Elections Oversight Committee (CEOC) is dedicated to helping King County maintain public confidence in elections. Per the King County Code, the CEOC makes recommendations to the King County Council to:

- Improve performance of the Department of Elections; and
- Help ensure that accountability and performance of the Department of Elections is provided in a transparent manner that is meaningful to the residents of King County.

As mentioned in the 2021 CEOC Annual Report, the CEOC and its members serve the public and the King County Council (hereafter referred to as KCC or Council) by making recommendations and reporting to the Council to maintain public confidence. CEOC also serves as an important source of guidance and information for King County Elections. As such, this report is submitted pursuant to King County Code 2.53.041.5, which requires the CEOC to submit an annual report to Council on its "observations, findings and recommendations regarding the special, primary and general elections."

## **Committee Highlights**

The CEOC met 7 times in 2022, more than the requirement specified in the ordinance that established the committee and had CEOC observers at every election conducted during the past year. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the CEOC has moved to entirely virtual meeting formats with no in-person meetings being held. The only non-virtual CEOC activities were observations at elections.

During 2022, the CEOC found itself with large membership turnover, as well as extended vacancies in a number of seats. Over the course of 2022, there were 8 new CEOC members. All positions on the committee have been filled to date with the exception of one representative from the Vietnamese speaking community with a term ending in Dec. 2023. The CEOC is appreciative of the Council's commitment to keeping the CEOC seated with members and the especially swift appointments when opportunities arose.

Eliseo Juárez, is the chair of the committee after serving the remainder of Kyle Vixie's term as Chair upon his resignation. Eliseo Juárez, was then elected to serve again as chair through 2024. He serves on the CEOC executive committee with three vice chairs; Jayson Todd Morris, disability community representative, Jude Ahmed of the Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle, and Mathew Patrick Thomas of the King County Republican Party.

## **Looking Forward: A Focus on Public Confidence in Elections**

At the final two meetings of 2022, the CEOC agreed to a workplan that sets the Committee on a path to better serve the County Council, the Department of Elections, and the residents of King County. Amidst a historic attack on the validity of elections, disinformation, and the rise in voter intimidation, the CEOC undertook an evaluation of how the Committee can better represent

the important role citizen oversight plays in maintaining confidence in King County Elections, elections operations, and ensure the performance of the Elections Department is meaningful for residents of King County. CEOC members look forward to establishing our subcommittee workplans to focus on the following areas in 2023:

- A. Increasing CEOC members' election and Canvassing Board observing program.
- B. Restructuring CEOC reporting to better inform Council and residents of the county of its work.
- C. Creating an Election Excellence Dashboard for the Council to see how the performance of King County Elections compares to best and emerging practices across the country with related recommendations for the Council to consider.
- D. Examining special junior taxing district elections as an area of critical recommendation in 2023 for the Council.

## **Conclusion**

Our collaboration with Director Julie Wise, King County Elections, and the Council's staff has been incredibly productive on behalf of the residents of King County. Our work monitoring elections is only as good as our ability to partner with the many public servants across numerous County Departments that play a role in election administration. The CEOC would like to express its gratitude for the transparent responses and timely disclosure of all its requests. King County is well served by its award winning Elections Department under the leadership of Director Wise.

As a chartered commission of the King County Council, we welcome any feedback and suggestions to improve our work. The Committee looks forward to providing more relevant and timely suggestions and information on how King County elections can maintain the confidence of our communities.

Maintaining public confidence in elections is more important than ever and with a fully seated CEOC, revitalized committee structure, work assignments, and reporting format for 2023, the Committee is eager to continue our work on behalf of King County.

In Service,

Eliseo J. Juárez  
Chair

Jayson Todd Morris, Vice Chair- Disability Community Representative  
Mathew Patrick Thomas, Vice Chair- King County Republican Party  
Jude Ahmed, Vice Chair - Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle

Hillary De La Cruz - Registered Voter  
Hanna Floss - King County Democratic Party  
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